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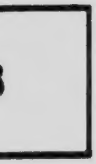

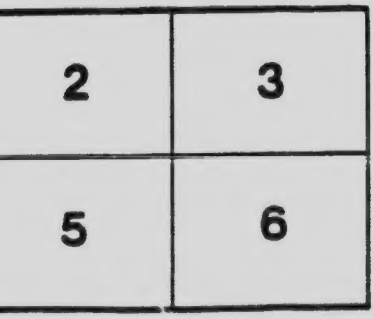

CONSTITUTION

of the

Independent Labor Party of Toronto

1. Name.

This organization shall be called the Independent Labor Party of Toronto.

2. Affiliation.

It shall be affiliated with the I.L.P. of Ontario; the Toronto Labor Representation Political Association, and with the Ontario Section of the Canadian Labor Party.

3. Objects.

(a) To bring together organized and unorganized labor so as to perfect a political power in Toronto and the surrounding districts.

(b) To elect labor candidates to the various municipal bodies; the Provincial Legislature and the Federal Parliament.

(c) To create among the workers a keener sense of responsibility for political action, and to disseminate knowledge of economic and industrial problems which call for an honest solution in the best interests of the workers.

(d) To provide funds for propaganda and for contesting elections.

4. Membership.

(a) Applications for membership shall be approved by the Central Executive.

(b) Membership shall be open to all citizens who subscribe to the principles of the Party.

(c) No applicant for membership shall belong to any other political organization or give support to any candidate who is not endorsed by the Labor Representation Political Association.

5. Fees.

(a) Membership fees shall be $2.00 per annum, payable to the branch secretaries.

(b) The financial year of the Party shall close on the 30th of September.

(c) New members shall pay, on a quarterly basis, for the unexpired portion of the year.

6. Organization.

The Party shall consist of:

(a) Chartered branches in the various wards of the city and in such suburban localities as may be authorized by the Central Executive.

(b) A Central Executive, with headquarters at the Toronto Labor Temple.

(c) An annual Convention of delegates elected by the affiliated branches, on the basis of one delegate for every 20 members or part thereof.

(d) The Annual Convention shall be held on the third Saturday of October at 2.30 p.m.

(e) A Special Convention may be called by the Central Executive or by a majority of the branches to deal with matters of urgent importance.

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7. Convention Business.

The business of the Convention shall be to receive officers' reports and recommendations; to amend, when necessary, the Constitution, By-laws and Platform, subject to the Constitution of the I.L.P. of Ontario; to deal with general resolutions and to elect officers.

8. Central Executive.

(a) The Central Executive shall consist of a President; three Vice-Presidents, with seniority according to vote; a Secretary-Treasurer, and a Recording Secretary, elected by the Convention, together with two representatives elected by each chartered branch.

(b) It shall fill vacancies as they occur and have power to appoint such officials as may be necessary to carry on the work of the Party.

(c) It shall meet on the fourth Thursday of each month. The second Thursday may be used as an open meeting for all members.

(d) A special meeting may be called by the President and the Recording Secretary, or at the written request of three Executive members.

(e) It shall supervise the general work and organization of the Party.

(f) Seven members shall form a quorum.

9. Duties of Officers.

President.

The President shall preside at all General and Executive meetings; sign all money orders made on the Treasurer and all important documents; see that the Constitution and By-laws are operated in the manner intended by the Convention and be the official spokesman of the Party.

Vice-Presidents.

In the absence of the President the senior Vice-President available shall be the Acting-President.

Secretary-Treasurer.

(a) The Secretary-Treasurer shall receive all funds and deposit same in the name of the Party; be empowered to obtain the financial statement of the branches in order to keep a correct record of the standing of the members; make monthly financial adjustments with the branches; give a monthly statement to the Central Executive and an itemized statement of all receipts and expenditures, to the auditors semi-annually; make no disbursements except on the order of the President, and shall be bonded for the safekeeping of the Party funds.

(b) The Secretary Treasurer shall receive an honorarium, the amount to be decided by the Convention.

Recording Secretary.

(a) The Recording Secretary shall preserve all documents; retain copies of all important letters sent out, keep an accurate record of the business of all meetings; keep a roll of the Executive members and submit same to the Convention.

(b) The Recording Secretary shall receive an honorarium, the amount to be decided by the Convention.

10. Branch Organization.

(a) All branches in Toronto and vicinity must affiliate with the Central Organization.

(b) Branches shall elect such officers as they deem necessary for their local requirements.

(c) Branches may enact their own by-laws if they do not conflict with those of the Central Organization.

11. Duties of Branches.

(a) To extend the activities of the Party in their respective localities.

(b) To enroll as many desirable members as possible.

(c) To see that all supporters of the Party are on the various voters' lists.

(d) To scrutinize the methods of preparing voters' lists and conducting elections.

(e) To assist in every way in the election of endorsed Labor candidates.

(f) To promote intercourse among the members for social and educational improvement.

12. Branch Fees.

(a) Branches shall pay to the Central Executive a per capita tax of 40 cents per annum, besides the per capita of 10 cents per quarter to the I. L. P. of Ontario, and an annual fee of $5.00 to the L. R. P. A.

(b) Branch Secretaries shall make monthly adjustments of per capita taxes to the Central Executive.

(c) Branches three months in arrears shall forfeit representation on the Central Executive; but shall have their delegates reinstated on meeting their liabilities.

13. Central Executive By-laws.

(a) The meetings of the Central Executive shall commence at 8 p.m.

(b) Any delegate being absent from three consecutive meetings, without reasonable excuse, shall be unseated and the branch asked to send a new delegate.

(c) Two members shall be appointed to audit the books of the Secretary-Treasurer in time to report not later than the last day of March and September.

(d) All grievances between branches or members of a branch shall be dealt with by the Central Executive. The decision shall be binding until the following Convention, when the matter may be reopened.

14. Order of Business.

1. Reading of minutes of previous meeting.
2. Correspondence.
3. Roll Call of Officers and Delegates.
4. Bills and Financial Statement.
5. Applications for Membership.
6. Reports of Committees.
7. Reports from Branches.
8. Unfinished Business.
9. New Business.
10. Good and Welfare.
11. Adjournment.

15. Declaration of Principles.

The object of the Independent Labor Party of Toronto is to promote the political, economic and social interests of people who live by their labor, mental or manual, as distinguished from those who live by profit upon the labor of others, having as its ultimate object the establishment of a Co-operative Commonwealth where production will be for use and not for profit.

Therefore, we have established a permanent organization in order that we may act in co-operation, as far as possible, with independent political organizations of the farmers and the producing class, for the purpose of electing men or women who will stand by the democratic principles of a working-class movement, with all that the term implies.

16. Platform.

1. The public ownership of all public utilities and natural sources of wealth.
2. Creation of national reserves of coal and timber.
3. Gradual elimination of unearned increment through a tax on land values.
4. Nationalization of banking and credit systems.
5. Government control of cold storages.
6. The democratic control of industry.
7. The eight-hour workday.
8. Equal pay for equal work.
9. National, Health and Unemployment insurance.
10. Adequate equal pensions to all disabled soldiers, either officers or men, and to soldiers' widows and dependents.
11. Pensions for widowed mothers with dependent children.
12. Old age pensions.
13. Maternity benefits and free hospital service.
14. Free education, including textbooks, in all institutions controlled by the Government; every child to be guaranteed from its birth until it becomes a self-supporting member of society, the material necessities of life, medical supervision and an unlimited education.
15. Equality of opportunity for men and women, politically, socially and industrially.

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16. Direct legislation through the initiative, referendum and recall.

17. Proportional representation, with grouped constituencies.

18. Abolition of all election deposits.

19. Abolition of the Canadian Senate.

20. No court to be legally competent to declare as unconstitutional any Act of Parliament of Canada.

21. Amending the British North America Act in order that the decisions of the highest court of appeal in Canada shall be final in all matters, civil and political.

22. Freedom of speech; freedom of the public press, and the right of lawful assembly.

We believe that performance is better than promise, and we rest our claim for the support of the workers on the general declaration that we stand for the industrial freedom of those who toil and the political liberation of those, who for so long, have been denied justice.